

To find a training near you,  
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Unifying science, education  
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blending initiative  
NIDA • SAMHSA

For more information and Blending Products visit:  
<http://nida.nih.gov/blending>  
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**NIDA** NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
ON DRUG ABUSE



A Life in the Community for Everyone  
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Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



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# THE SCIENCE OF ADDICTION TREATMENT

Dissemination of Research-Based  
Drug Addiction Treatment Findings

2009

INITIATIVE

# THE BLENDING INITIATIVE

Accelerating the dissemination of findings that drug abuse and addiction research generates into community-based practice is a key priority for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). To this end, NIDA relies on an innovative partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (SAMHSA/CSAT) known as the Blending Initiative. This initiative is NIDA's most recent effort to accelerate the dissemination of research-based drug abuse and addiction treatment findings into community-based practice.

**Sustainability** training  
**IMPLEMENTATION**  
**validity** research  
**FIDELITY** Feedback  
**effectiveness**

## MAJOR COMPONENTS

The Blending Initiative is composed of several components, including regional Blending Conferences, State agency partnerships, and Blending Teams and products.

### REGIONAL BLENDING CONFERENCES

All NIDA Blending Conferences are uniquely designed to enhance bidirectional communication between researchers, clinical practitioners, and policymakers regarding innovative research findings about drug abuse and addiction. These conferences have been strategically convened in different geographic regions of the country.

### STATE AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

NIDA works closely with SAMHSA and other Federal and State policymakers to help identify strategies to accelerate the adoption of research-based practices.

### BLENDING PRODUCTS

Based on recently tested NIDA research, Blending Teams design user-friendly tools, or products, and introduce them to treatment providers. These products facilitate the adoption of research-based interventions in communities at nearly the same time research results are published in peer-reviewed journals.

Blending Teams are comprised of NIDA researchers, clinical treatment providers, and trainers from SAMHSA's Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network. These experts work together to develop products based on research conducted within NIDA's Clinical Trials Network as well as within other research programs supported by NIDA. The ATTC Network, which is funded by CSAT, provides specialized training and technical assistance to substance abuse treatment professionals to create a more effective treatment workforce.

To date, six separate Blending products have been developed and include

1. Buprenorphine Treatment: A Training for Multidisciplinary Addiction Professionals
2. Short-Term Opioid Withdrawal Using Buprenorphine: Findings and Strategies From a NIDA Clinical Trials Network
3. Buprenorphine Treatment for Young Adults
4. Treatment Planning M.A.T.R.S.: Utilizing the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) to Make Required Data Collection Useful
5. Motivational Interviewing Assessment: Supervisory Tools for Enhancing Proficiency (MIA:STEP)
6. Promoting Awareness of Motivational Incentives (PAMI)